being with effect from 20th February, 1987.

Pension to former Indian National Army personnel

*188. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

SHRI J. P. GOYAL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of applications for pension so far received from persons belonging to the former Indian National Army;

(b) how many of the applicants have been sanctioned pension so far;

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to liberalise the rules governing payment of pension to freedom fighters with a view to extend such benefits to the civilian members of the former Indian National Army; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b) Freedom Fighters Division of Home Ministry received 34,665 in-time applications from Ex-INA personnel. Out of this, 18,814 persons have so far been sanctioned pension.

(c) and (d) According to existing provisions of the scheme, persons who had joined I.N.A. from Civilian side are also eligible for pension provided they had suffering as prescribed under the scheme. Government have constituted a Committee and taken steps to ensure that applicants eligible under th scheme get their pension.

Safety and Security of Workers in Construction Industry

*190. SHRI THANGABAALU:
SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme for the Safety and security of workers engaged in the construction industry; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the Indian Standards Institution has evolved a number of standards for safety in construction industry. Municipal bye-laws also regulate construction activity within municipal limits. Also, Central and State Public Works Departments corporate safety provisions in construction contracts awarded by them.

Schemes for the Rehabilitation of displaced Persons in West Bengal

*191. SHRI RAMKRISHNA MAZUMDER:

SHRI CHITTA BASU:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have recently advised the State Government of West Bengal to expedite the completion of the on-going schemes for the rehabilitation of displaced persons in the State;

(b) if so, what are the details of the on-going schemes and the various stages of their implementation till date; and

(c) what other schemes, apart from the on-going ones, are now pending with the Central Government for approval?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Government of India has been advising the Government of West Bengal from time to time to expedite the completion of 'on-going' schemes for the rehabilitation of displaced persons from former East Pakistan.

(b) The on-going schemes and their stages of implementation are as under:—

(i) *Grant of House Building loans to remaining ex-camp families:*

The State Government had sought acquisition of additional 12 acres of

land for common amenities for 1065 families to be settled at Bagojola camp site which has been allowed. For grant of house building loan to other remaining families, funds have already been released to the State Government.

(ii) *Acquisition of land in approved squatters' colonies which came into existence between* 1-9-1951 *and* 25-3-71;

175 such colonies were approved in 1978 and as last reported by the State Government, land has been acquired for 136 colonies. For the remaining colonies the process of land acquisition is going on. 607 more colonies have been approved recently for which the Government of India has approved an outlay of Rs. 84.36 crores. The State Government has assured that the work, including grant of title of land, would be completed in five years.

(iii) *Resettlement of about 676 families who came to India from Indian Enclaves in former East Pakistan*:

The State Government wanted revision of scales of rehabilitation assistance these families. This was allowed in June, 1986. The State Government is in the process of rehabilitation of remaining 271 families which is the revised figure given by the State Government.

(iv) *Grant of free-hold title of lands allotted to Displaced Persons in Urban areas*:

The displaced persons in urban areas of West Bengal were hitherto being allotted land on lease hold basis. The policy has been reviewed and the State Government has been allowed to follow their own policy of grant of title to land in urban areas. The displaced persons will now be allowed free hold titles.

(c) No schems are pending with the Central Government for approval.

Mock hijacking of Indian Airlines Flight

*192. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a mock hijacking of Indian Airlines flight was organised recently; if so, with what objectives and whether the objectives were fully achieved;

(b) what was the total expenditure, direct or indirect, incurred on this account, including delays and cancellations of other flights;

(c) how many passengers of the cancelled air flights were adversely affected and what relief and alternative arrangements were made for them;

(d) whether this exercise was patterned on similar lines as practised in other countries, if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) whether such exercises will also be held in future?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. A controlled exercise designed to activate all agencies and departments charged with the responsibilities of combating a situation involving hijack of an aircraft was conducted on 16-1-87. The exercise proved to be satisfactory and the objective were fully achieved.

(b) No flights were cancelled as a result of the hijack exercise. However, a total expenditure on chartering of aircraft etc. of approximately 2,69,900/- was incurred.

(c) 171 passengers were affected due to postponement/delay in Air Flights which overflew Aurangabad. The affected passengers were provided with hotel accommodation, refreshments, transport facilities and alternate bookings. The passengers were also permitted to cancel their journey without any penalty.

(d) Anti-hijack exercises are conducted in foreign countries having counter terrorist Forces. However, details are not known.

(e) No decision has been taken about exercises in the future.